

## The Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 11.

The bill from the Senate, for the admission of the new State of West Virginia, passed the House of Representatives, yesterday, by a vote of 96 to 55. Whether it will be approved of by President Lincoln we do not know. The Washington Star, we observe, thinks the measure will prove "most unfortunate." The National Intelligencer doubts its policy.

The bill which passed the House of Representatives, yesterday, for the admission of Western Virginia as a State of the Union, and which now needs only the President's approval to become a law, provides that the new State shall embrace the counties of Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Doddridge, Harrison, Wood, Jackson, Wirt, Roane, Calhoun, Gilmer, Barbour, Tucker, Lewis, Braxton, Upshur, Randolph, Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, Clay, Nicholas, Cabell, Wayne, Boone, Logan, Wyoming, Mercer, McDowell, Webster, Pocahontas, Fayette, Raleigh, Greenbrier, Monroe, Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire and Morgan, nearly all west of the Alleghany mountains. A convention is to be called under the act, to frame a constitution, which is to be submitted to the people, and if approved, and the legislature of the State assenting to the formation of the State under the provisions of the act, then the President will, by proclamation, announce the fact, and the admission of the State will be complete. The act provides that all children born of slave parents after the 4th of March next shall be free, and that all slaves ten years old and under shall be free when twenty-one, and all over ten and under twenty-one free at twenty-five.

Some of the Northern newspapers state that "the bill for the formation of the new State of Western Virginia having passed, the present Pierpoint (or Western Virginia) Government, which claims to be the Government of the whole of Virginia, will remove from Wheeling to Alexandria, and the new State will start in business on its own account. It is added that this pledge has already been given to the President, and the plan was not concealed from Congress."

In the approaching CHRISTMAS times, we are sure our citizens will not forget the wants of those who are in need of food, or clothing, or fuel. We know the comparative privations of almost all—and that this is not a season when those who are willing, can give what they desire for the relief of the destitute—but what can possibly be spared from our households, let us bestow upon those who are more unfortunate than their neighbors.

The Washington Republican opposes "an onward movement to Richmond," by Gen. Burnside's army.

A dispatch to the New York Herald, dated Washington, Dec. 8, says:—"It is regarded as certain at the ordnance bureau of the War Department that an advance train of one hundred and thirty or forty six-horse wagons hence for the Rappahannock, have fallen into the hands of the Confederates."

A proclamation has been issued by Gen. Dix ordering an election for a member of Congress for the second Congressional district of Virginia. The district is composed of the counties of Norfolk, Prince Anne, Nansemond and Isle of Wight. The proclamation says: "All white males of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, actual residents of the district, who shall not have refused heretofore to give evidence of their fidelity to the government, shall be entitled to vote. All persons entitled and declining to vote, and who are not prevented by age, infirmity, or other valid cause, from performing their duty as citizens by voting under this proclamation, will be regarded as hostile to the government, and subject to all the penalties of disloyalty."

LOCAL.—The weather continues to moderate, and although we have frosty nights, there is no severity in the cold, and the days are bright; the ice in the river is breaking up, and steamboats and sailing vessels are not materially hindered in arriving and departing.—The Common Council, at their session on Tuesday, passed a law for prohibiting persons from keeping on their premises hay, straw, or dangerous combustible materials uncovered, or in a dangerous and insecure situation; Alex. McDonald was granted permission to erect a wooden building on Henry, between King and Cameron streets.

The plating of the Roanoke has just been completed at New York, and in a few weeks—possibly by Christmas—the ship will be ready for the duty to which she is to be assigned, the defence of New York harbor.

A disgraceful affair took place in the N. Y. Park barracks yesterday. A company of Rhode Island Cavalry, becoming intoxicated broke into the office of Col. Bliss and wantonly destroyed all the furniture therein. They then burst open private drawers and abstracted their contents, and wound up their proceedings by taking possession of the letters belonging to sick soldiers, which were in a large mail bag.

The enrollment of St. Mary's county, Md., now being prosecuted by a detachment of the Purnell Cavalry, under Capt. Watkins, will be completed in a few days, when the draft in that county will commence.

Schr. Samuel Lewis, of and from Boston for Alexandria, with an assorted cargo, while at anchor in Newport harbor, was run into by schr. Knight, of Dennis, which carried away, bowsprit, jibboom, &c. A portion of the cargo will have to be discharged.

Dr. Wirt was arrested in King George county, recently, on the charge of being implicated in a late attack upon the Federal forces at King George Court House. The charge was disproved.

In the French Court of assize of the Seine-et-Oise were tried lately and acquitted—the persons engaged in the late duel in which Mr. Dillon lost his life. The court was crowded with persons connected with the sporting world.

It is said that this is one of the bad years for wine growing in the West, and the crop is almost a failure. Less than one fourth the usual average has been realized. The very wet weather from May and June caused first mildew and then rot in the grape.

Books, pictures, statues, and works of art generally are held by all civilized nations as exempt from the ordinary rights of war.

The New York Herald, in speaking of the recent letter of Secretary Seward to the American Minister at London, explaining the recent elections in the Northern and Western States, says, "Mr. Secretary Seward in his letter to the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, the Minister at London, explaining the elections in the loyal States for the information of the English Cabinet, throws out the idea that these elections do not amount to much in their political party results, as applied to the important question of this war. We can tell Mr. Seward however, that in his idea he is very wide of the mark, and that the late remarkable popular reaction in the loyal states amounts to nothing less than a condemnation by the people of the way in which the war, under the evil counsels of the Abolition radicals, has been managed down to this time."

The New York Evening Post of Monday states that the subscriptions, up to that time, for the relief of the English operatives, including the cash subscriptions and the contributions of provisions and transportation facilities, reached one hundred thousand dollars.

The removal of some of the sick soldiers from the Convalescent Camp at Alexandria has commenced. On Tuesday, four hundred were removed to Fairfax Seminary Hospital, and a large number of the others were distributed among the Hospitals of Alexandria.

The Falmouth correspondent of the New York Times, referring to the policy of Gen. Burnside says that it does not enter into his calculations to delay one hour beyond the time imposed by material conditions, but "to push on steadily, directly, and unflinchingly toward Richmond."

The coal oil exported from Philadelphia during the first eleven months of the present year amounted to 2,326,308 gallons, valued at \$433,922. During the month of November no less than 109,924 gallons, valued at \$22,028, were shipped to France.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune says in his letter of the 8th instant, that Mr. Attorney General Bates is preparing, and has nearly completed, "a most important opinion, affirming the citizenship of persons of African descent, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, the Dred Scott decision to the contrary notwithstanding."

A paper manufacturer on the Kennebec informs the Portland Press that there is no lack of rags in Maine; that among those upon whom he has heretofore depended for supply he found one with ten tons, another with fifteen; another with five, and so on, but all hold back refusing to sell, thinking to get by and bye, fifteen or twenty cents a pound.

The directors of the great Eastern Steamship Company have resolved to raise £100,000 on a mortgage for three years; in order to meet pressing financial embarrassments. Contributions for the relief of the poor operatives are coming in on a magnificent scale.

Secretary Welles, in response to the House resolution, transmitted a list of acting midshipmen appointed during the recess of Congress, and considers they have been made by full authority of law, although the exigencies of the service and the condition of the country would not permit a compliance with previous usage, nor in all respects with the letter of recent enactments.